



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_36363
Title of the Manuscript:	Influence of Training on Vegetative Growth Characteristics and Yield of Polyhouse Grown Cucumber (Cucumis sativus L.)
Type of the Article	

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	For me, the experimental design needs more details. Two factors have been tested: First, type of stem (with five levels: no, single, two or three stem) and the second factor: side shoot training (with two levels: presence or not). If this is true, $5 \times 2 = 10$ treatments and not 7 treatments as described in the manuscript. On the other hand, the Control treatment, what does it mean? Does it mean no stem and no shoot training? It is not clear. The statistical analysis must clearly show the effect of each of the two factors and the effect of their interaction. Why this interaction is not studied in the experiment ?.	Only one factor i.e shoot training has been tested. The experiment consisted of seven treatments, made up of different shoot training systems. In treatment T₁ (single stem) only one stem was retained by removing all the other shoots from their starting point. While in treatment T₂ (single stem with side shoot training after three leaves), plants were trained to single stem with side shoots which were removed after three leaves. Similarly treatments T₃, T₄, T₅ and T₆ were done. In control (no training) (T₇), no training was done to the plants and these were allowed to grow naturally. As there is only one factor so the interaction effect is not applicable in the present study.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Line 15 to 17. Cucumber (<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.) is a member of the gourd family cucurbitaceae, which comprises of genera and 825 species in warmer parts of the world (please, add source). It is a warm season crop and has little or no tolerance to frost. Growth and development are favoured by temperature above 20°C. The optimum temperature for growing is between 20°C and 30°C (please, add source). Line 18 to 22. Under open environment cucumber is	



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	being grown in both summer and rainy seasons, with varying success due to various abiotic (low temperature and unpredictable weather) and biotic (red pumpkin beetle, fruit fly and incidence of downy/powdery mildew) stresses (please, add source). Under the protected environment we can grow good quality cucumber throughout the year in hills as compared to the open cultivation. The type of cucumber grown in polyhouses is parthenocarpic. The fruits are mild in flavour and have a thin edible skin that requires no peeling (please, add source). Line 23 to 26. In protected cultivation, profits are greatly dependent on the quantity and quality of the produce (please, add source). Shoot training of plants contribute to the ultimate yield in various ways. Shoot training maximizes the plant ability to obtain the sunlight needed for growth and development. It is also important to maintain adequate air movement around the plant to reduce risk of fungus and other insect problems (please, add source). On the other hand, dense canopy of leaves shade the fruits, causing them to be pale. Line 23 to 24. Shoot training of plants contribute??? (contributes or contributed please, check) to the ultimate yield in various ways. Line 27 to 29. Relatively high perishability has made cucumber plants to be more vulnerable to intensive crop management and unfavorable environmental conditions (please, add source). Excessive shoot training sometimes causes	
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	the plants to cease producing flowers (please, add source). Therefore, it is important to maintain optimum foliage as well as shoots on the plant for adequate rates of photosynthesis. Table 1. Please, see last line of the table: CD ($P = .05$). What does mean CD? Please, explain below the table. Table 1. For easy comparison of data, please, add letters a, b, c, ... to show difference between means which are significantly different. Table 1. For second and third columns, please, add unit (for example, Days of 50% flowering (number of days after sowing) ; Days to first picking (number of days after sowing) Line 41. Control treatment. What does it mean? Does it mean no stem and no shoot training? It is not clear. Line 51. trained to single stem took minimum 23.67 days from sowing ~~number of days (23.67)~~ to produce 50 per cent flowering Line 57. In cucumber the early crop produce fetch higher returns in the market (please, add reference) and shoot training of plants also had significant influence on days to first picking.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		